ERGY STAR®?

electronics, and heating and cooling equipment.

ENERGY STAR also provides important recommendations for product installation and home improvement so you get the most comfort and energy savings from the products and services you purchase. Saving energy also saves you money and helps protect the environment. To get started, visit the Home Energy Yardstick at www.energystar.gov/yardstick and find out how efficiently you use energy at home.

ORT WHILE LOWERING
RGY STAR HOME SEALING

Seal air leaks to stop drafts and get full performance from your insulation; and

Choose ENERGY STAR labeled windows when replacing old windows.

For more information
visit www.energystar.gov.
Or call 1-888-STAR-YES
(1-888-782-7937).

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US Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Energy
EPA 430F-02-002 June 2002

WHAT IS EN

ENERGY STAR provides consumers with energy-efficient solutions, giving individuals the power to help protect our planet for future generations.

ENERGY STAR is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency. It identifies new homes, buildings, and over 30 types of products that are energy efficient and do not sacrifice the features, quality, and personal comfort that today's consumers expect. Products that can earn the ENERGY STAR include appliances, lighting, home office equipment, consumer

IMPROVE YOUR COMF
ENERGY BILLS WITH ENE

Home Sealing is a process recommended by ENERGY STAR to help increase the comfort and energy efficiency of your home by improving the "envelope" — the outer walls, ceiling, windows, and floors. To improve the envelope of your home:

Add insulation to stay comfortable during periods of extreme temperatures;

For detailed guidance on ENERGY STAR Home Sealing and energy-saving solutions for your home, visit www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement and click on "Home Sealing."

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Home Sealing Brochure
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HOME SEALING BENEFITS

Sealing air leaks and properly installing insulation improves the comfort in every room of your home by reducing cold or hot outer walls and eliminating drafts from cracks and gaps. Air sealing and insulating can also reduce the amount of noise that enters the home from the outdoors.

Nearly half of the average homeowner's energy use goes toward heating and cooling. Effective air sealing, combined with the right amount of insulation, can cut heating and cooling costs by up to 20 percent.

Sealing and insulating your home while allowing proper ventilation can make your home a healthier place in which to live. A well-sealed home can help prevent pollutants such as pollen, chemical vapors from the garage, and car exhaust from entering the home. Decreasing the amount of moist air that leaks through the house and adding insulation can also reduce mold and mildew growth on or inside walls and ceilings.

HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Did you know that your house can be a greater source of pollution than your car? In fact, 15 percent of all greenhouse gases are generated from the energy used in houses nationwide.

Energy used in our homes often comes from the burning of fossil fuels at power plants. This contributes to a host of air pollution problems, including smog, acid rain, and global warming. Simply put, the less energy we use in our homes, the less air pollution we generate.

Money Isn't All You're Saving

IMPROVING YOUR HOME ENVELOPE

The exterior of your home is also called the envelope or shell. (See the orange line showing the envelope in the diagram below.) The insulation, outer walls, ceiling, windows, and floors all work together to reduce airflow and prevent moisture from entering your home. A high-performance envelope helps maintain consistent temperatures even under extremely hot or cold conditions.

INSULATION

Adding insulation can reduce the amount of energy it takes to heat and cool your home and can help provide consistent comfort in every part of your home, all year long. The most common types of insulation are cellulose, fiberglass, rigid foam, rock wool, and spray foam.

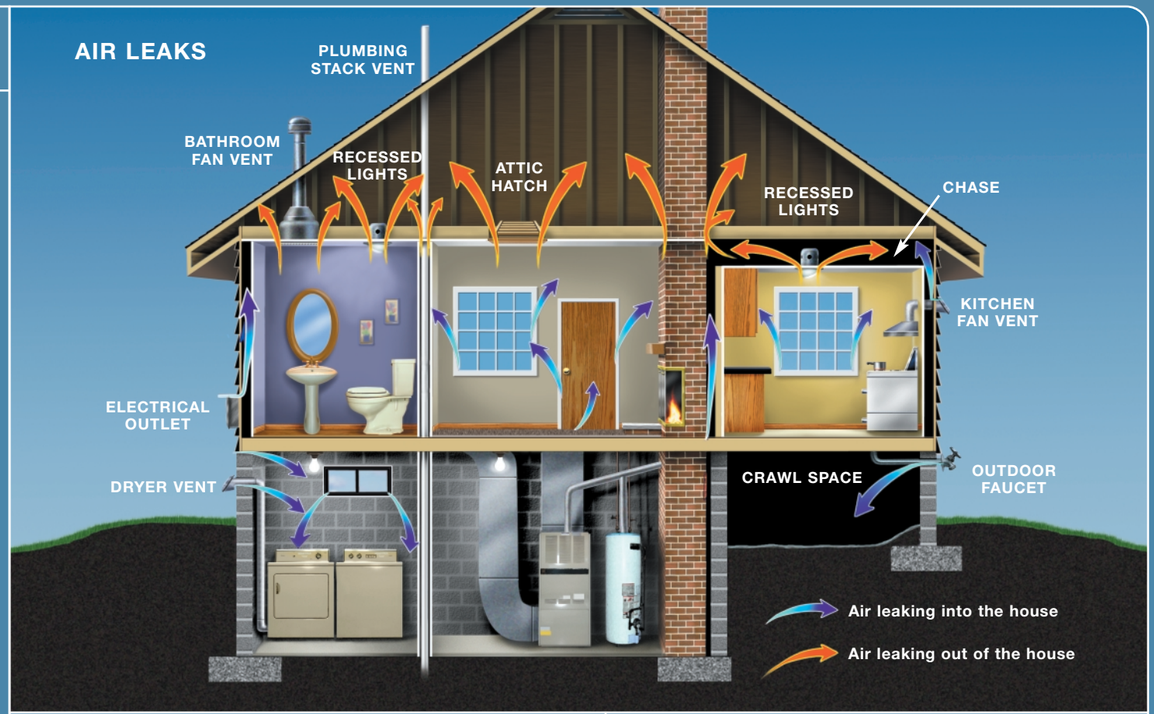
HIDDEN AIR LEAKS

Air leaks can make your home uncomfortable. Drafty windows and doors, cold walls or ceilings, and ice build-up or ice dams on the roof are all symptoms of air leaks or poor insulation. Fixing them will help save energy and improve the durability and comfort of your home. Look for these common air leaks in your house:

- Holes that lead down into the house from the attic or up from the basement
- Gaps around pipes, wires, and electrical outlets in the wall
- Gaps around the dryer vent
- Air leaks around the bathroom or kitchen fan vents
- Air leaks around recessed lights
- Air leaks around the attic door or hatch
- Gaps around the chimney or furnace flue

The sum of these small openings can equal as much airflow as an open window—and, more importantly, a higher energy bill.

There are many ways to fix air leaks, such as caulking, using spray foam, and weather stripping for closing smaller cracks and gaps. Plywood, drywall, and rigid foam insulation may be used for plugging larger holes. Sheet metal and high-temperature caulking can be used to close gaps around chimneys and furnace flues.



ENERGY STAR LABELED WINDOWS

Windows are an important part of the home envelope. If you are remodeling or building an addition, consider replacing old windows with ENERGY STAR labeled models. They increase comfort, eliminate drafts, reduce UV damage to interior fabrics, and can cut home heating and cooling costs.

HOW TO GET STARTED

For the best results, ENERGY STAR recommends working with a home energy professional and/or insulation contractor in your area. These professionals offer a range of services — everything from testing your home and identifying areas for improvement to actually making the energy-saving upgrades. Visit www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement and click on "Home Sealing" to find professionals in your area who can help you make energy-efficient improvements.

After air sealing, be sure to have a professional check your home's ventilation and test combustion appliances to be sure they are properly venting.

For "handy" homeowners, there are do-it-yourself measures that you can take to improve your home's envelope. Sealing air leaks around windows and doors, covering attic hatches, and adding insulation to the attic are good ways to improve the comfort and energy efficiency of your home yourself.

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